

BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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COMMISSIONERS

KRISTIN K. MAYES, Chairman

GARY PIERCE

PAUL NEWMAN

SANDRA D. KENNEDY BOB STUMP

THOMAS S. BLACKWELL (CRD #

4370822) and KIMBERLY BLACKWELL.

TEAM HEAT, LLC, a terminated Arizona

Respondents.

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In the matter of

husband and wife,

limited liability company,

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Arizona Corporation Commission DOCKETED

OCT 21 2009

DOCKETED BY

DOCKET NO. S-20673A-09-0198

DECISION NO.

71302

ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST, FOR RESTITUTION, OF REVOCATION, AND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

On April 24, 2009, the Securities Division ("Division") of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") filed a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing Regarding Proposed Order to Cease and Desist, for Restitution, of Revocation, for Administrative Penalties, and for Other Affirmative Action ("Notice") against THOMAS S. BLACKWELL, KIMBERLY BLACKWELL, and TEAM HEAT, LLC.

On April 29, 2009, the Division served the Notice upon THOMAS S. BLACKWELL, KIMBERLY BLACKWELL, and TEAM HEAT, LLC by delivering a copy to their attorney Kevin Jensen.

On May 20, 2009, a request for hearing was filed by THOMAS S. BLACKWELL and KIMBERLY BLACKWELL. On September 2, 2009, this request for hearing was withdrawn.

THOMAS S. BLACKWELL and KIMBERLY BLACKWELL did not file an answer to the Notice and TEAM HEAT, LLC filed neither a request for hearing nor an answer to the Notice.

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TIND	INGS	OF	E A	C
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- 1. THOMAS S. BLACKWELL ("BLACKWELL") is an individual who, at all relevant times, resided in Maricopa County, Arizona. BLACKWELL is the manager of TEAM HEAT, LLC.
- 2. KIMBERLY BLACKWELL was, at all relevant times, the spouse of BLACKWELL and may be referred to as "Respondent Spouse." Respondent Spouse is joined in this action under A.R S. §44-2031(C) solely for purposes of determining the liability of the marital community.
- 3. At all relevant times, BLACKWELL acted for his own benefit and for the benefit or in furtherance of the marital community.
- 4. TEAM HEAT, LLC ("TEAM HEAT") is a terminated, Arizona limited liability company with a last known principal place of business in Maricopa County, Arizona.
 - 5. BLACKWELL and TEAM HEAT may be referred to collectively as "Respondents."
- 6. At all relevant times, BLACKWELL was a registered securities salesman affiliated with World Group Securities, Inc. ("WGS"), an Arizona registered securities dealer. BLACKWELL resigned from WGS in February 2008.
 - 7. At all relevant times, TEAM HEAT was not registered as a securities dealer.
- 8. From on or about August 2007 to January 2008 in Maricopa County, Arizona, Respondents offered and sold \$1,429,000 of investment contracts with the title Rate of Return Agreement issued by TEAM HEAT to 11 investors. Respondents have repaid to investors amounts totaling \$683,365.
- 9. At all relevant times, the investment contracts referred to above were not registered pursuant to Articles 6 or 7 of the Securities Act.
- 10. The offers and sales of the Rate of Return Agreements were not recorded on the records of WGS. Investments associated with TEAM HEAT were not authorized investment products of WGS and BLACKWELL was not authorized by WGS to sell them.

- 11. The Rate of Return Agreements state as follows: "Investors are to provide funds and TEAM HEAT is to provide the rate of return on the funds. A rate of return is projected to be 5% if a monthly withdrawal is taken. A return on investment is projected to be 6% monthly or 101% annually if funds are left to compound without any withdrawals. Return is...based on past performance."
- 12. TEAM HEAT had no past performance generating returns on investments. TEAM HEAT was formed by BLACKWELL for tax purposes, self-employment status, tax deductions, and to pay his bills (e.g., office rent, assistant, office supplies). Prior to the offers and sales of the Rate of Return Agreements, the business activity of TEAM HEAT did not include investments.
- 13. Respondents deposited all of the investors' money into one of Respondents' bank accounts for investment by Respondents and Respondents expected to keep as their compensation the difference between what the investments would actually yield and the return to be paid to investors pursuant to the Rate of Return Agreements.
- 14. BLACKWELL represented that he and TEAM HEAT would put the investors' money into "investments that he has looked at," including a highly profitable venture that funded television advertisements for a variety of products (the "TV AD Venture"). In August 2007, BLACKWELL viewed the TV AD Venture's website that claimed investors would earn annual returns between 4,800% and 12,000%.
- 15. In September 2007, BLACKWELL learned that the TV AD Venture's operations were transitioning offshore. In early November 2007, the TV AD Venture stopped making payments to its investors and BLACKWELL was unable to obtain a refund of principal from the operators of the TV AD Venture. In late December 2007, BLACKWELL learned that the Securities and Exchange Commission had filed an enforcement action against the principals of the TV AD Venture for fraud, alleging that the TV AD Venture really had no business operations and that it was simply a Ponzi scheme. Respondents did not disclose to the investors any of the foregoing information.

- 16. Although Respondents received some payments from the operators of the TV AD Venture, much of the investors' money was lost.
- 17. In January 2008, Respondents tried to recoup the investors' losses by causing some of the investors' money to be used in foreign currency trading. After just a few days of trading, Respondents lost additional amounts and ceased further use of the investors' money.
- 18. In early February 2008, BLACKWELL told the investors simply that the TV AD Venture lost money and that "it didn't work out like we hoped," so Respondents refunded to the investors what money of theirs they had left at the time.
 - 19. Respondents have repaid in full some, but not all, of the investors.
- 20. Respondents spent \$122,466 of the investors' money on personal and business expenses, including \$5,400 in automobile lease payments.

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CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Article XV of the Arizona Constitution and the Securities Act.
- 2. Neither Respondents nor Respondent Spouses requested a hearing pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1972 and A.A.C. R14-4-307.
- Neither Respondents nor Respondent Spouses filed an answer pursuant to A.A.C.
 R14-4-307.
- 4. Respondents offered or sold securities within or from Arizona, within the meaning of A.R.S. §§ 44-1801(15), 44-1801(21), and 44-1801(26).
- 5. Respondents violated A.R.S. § 44-1841 by offering or selling securities that were neither registered nor exempt from registration.
- 6. TEAM HEAT violated A.R.S. § 44-1842 by offering or selling securities while neither registered as a dealer nor exempt from registration.

7.	Respondents violated A.R.S. § 44-1991 by (a) employing a device, scheme, or
artifice to	defraud; (b) making untrue statements of material facts or omitting to state material facts
necessary	in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they
were made	e, not misleading; and, (c) engaging in transactions, practices, or courses of business that
operate or	would operate as a fraud or deceit. Respondents' conduct includes, but is not limited to
the follow	ing:

- a) Misrepresenting that the return to have been paid to the investors would have been based on past performance;
- Failing to disclose information that contradicted the representation that the
 TV AD Venture was highly profitable;
- c) Failing to adequately disclose that some investors would be repaid in full before other investors and that Respondents would decide which investors that would be; and,
- d) Failing to disclose that Respondents would spend \$122,466 of the investors' money on personal and business expenses, including \$5,400 in automobile lease payments, before all of the investors have been repaid.
- 8. BLACKWELL directly or indirectly controlled TEAM HEAT as its managing member. Therefore, BLACKWELL is jointly and severally liable under A.R.S. § 44-1999 to the same extent as TEAM HEAT for its violations of A.R.S. § 44-1991.
- 9. The conduct of BLACKWELL subjects him to an order of revocation of his securities salesman registration pursuant to:
 - a) A.R.S. § 44-1962(A)(2) for violating A.R.S. §§ 44-1841 and 44-1991; and,
- b) A.R.S. § 44-1962(A)(10) for engaging in dishonest or unethical practices as defined by A.A.C. R14-4-130(A)(17) (effecting securities transactions that were not recorded on the records of the dealer with whom he was registered at the time of the transactions).
- 10. Respondents' conduct is grounds for a cease and desist order pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 44-2032 and 44-1962.

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11. Respondents' conduct is grounds for an order of restitution pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 44-2032 and 44-1962.

- 12. Respondents' conduct is grounds for administrative penalties under A.R.S. §§ 44-2036 and 44-1962.
- 13. BLACKWELL acted for the benefit of his marital community and, pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 25-214 and 25-215, this Order of restitution and administrative penalties is a debt of the community.

III.

ORDER

THEREFORE, on the basis of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Commission finds that the following relief is appropriate, in the public interest, and necessary for the protection of investors:

IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 44-2032 and 44-1962, that Respondents, and any of Respondents' agents, employees, successors and assigns, permanently cease and desist from violating the Securities Act.

Respondents, individually, and the marital community of BLACKWELL and Respondent Spouse, jointly and severally, shall pay restitution to the Commission in the amount of \$947,931. Payment shall be made in full on the date of this Order. Any amount outstanding shall accrue interest at the rate of 10% per annum from the date of this Order until paid in full. Payment shall be made to the "State of Arizona" to be placed in an interest-bearing account controlled by the Commission. The Commission shall disburse the funds on a pro-rata basis to investors shown on the records of the Commission. Any restitution funds that the Commission cannot disburse because an investor refuses to accept such payment, or any restitution funds that cannot be disbursed to an investor because the investor is deceased and the Commission cannot reasonably identify and locate the deceased investor's spouse or natural children surviving at the time of the distribution, shall be

disbursed on a pro-rata basis to the remaining investors shown on the records of the Commission.

Any funds that the Commission determines it is unable to or cannot feasibly disburse shall be transferred to the general fund of the state of Arizona.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 44-2036 and 44-1962, that Respondents, individually, and the marital community of BLACKWELL and Respondent Spouse, jointly and severally, shall pay an administrative penalty in the amount of \$100,000. Payment shall be made to the "State of Arizona." Any amount outstanding shall accrue interest at the rate of 10% per annum from the date of this Order until paid in full. The payment obligations for these administrative penalties shall be subordinate to any restitution obligations ordered herein and shall become immediately due and payable only after restitution payments have been paid in full or upon default by Respondents or Respondent Spouse with respect to the restitution obligations of Respondents and Respondent Spouse.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1962, that the securities salesman registration of BLACKWELL is revoked.

For purposes of this Order, a bankruptcy filing by any of the Respondents or Respondent Spouse shall be an act of default. If any Respondent or Respondent Spouse does not comply with this Order, any outstanding balance may be deemed in default and shall be immediately due and payable.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, if any Respondent or Respondent Spouse fails to 1 comply with this order, the Commission may bring further legal proceedings against that 2 Respondent or Respondent Spouse, including application to the superior court for an order of 3 contempt. 4 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall become effective immediately. 5 BY ORDER OF THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 6 7 8 OMENISSIONER CHAIRMAN 9 10 11 COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER 12 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, ERNEST G. JOHNSON, 13 Corporation Executive Director of the Arizona Commission, have hereunto set my hand and caused the 14 official seal of the Commission to be affixed at the Capitol, in the City of Phoenix, this 2156 day of 15 October 2009. 16 17 18 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 19 20 DISSENT 21 22 23 DISSENT 24 This document is available in alternative formats by contacting Shaylin A. Bernal, ADA 25 Coordinator, voice phone number 602-542-3931, e-mail sabernal@azcc.gov. 26 (ASL)

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